WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of storing an initial use date of a printer, comprising the steps of:

determining whether the printer is used for the first time; and

storing the initial use date in a storage of the printer if the printer is used for the first time.

2.   A method of informing an initial use date of a printer, comprising the steps of:

(1) providing data stored in a storage to a host by the printer when a printer driver is installed, the storage including a first area for storing information indicating whether the initial use data was stored and a second area for recording the initial use date;

(2) determining whether the initial use date was stored referring to the data indicating the presence or absence of the initial use date by the host;

(3) providing a current year/month/date to the printer by the host if the initial use date was not stored;

(4) storing the current year/month/date received from the host as the initial use date in the second area of the storage and information indicating that the initial use date was stored by the printer; and

(5) outputting the initial use date from the storage by the printer upon receipt of a user command.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step (3) comprises the steps of:

displaying a first message asking whether a year/month/date counted by an internal counter

is identical to the current year/month/date by the host if the initial use date was not stored;

providing the counted year/month/date as the current year/month/date to the printer by the

host upon receipt of a positive response from a user;

displaying a second message requesting the user to enter the current year/month/date by the

host upon receipt of a negative response from the user; and

providing a year/month/date received from the user as the current year/month/date to the

printer by the host upon receipt of the year/month/date from the user.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring data from said printer

to a computer attached to said printer.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said initial use date is entered into said computer by a

user.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said computer counts the date via an internal clock and

registers the time and the date into memory of the printer if said time and date are correct.

7. A method for initializing a printer attached to a computer, comprising the steps of:

electrically connecting said printer to said computer;

applying power to both said computer and said printer;

4   installing a printer driver into said computer;

5   sending data from a memory space in said printer to said computer;

6   determining whether said printer has an initial date stored in said memory of said printer; and

7   typing in an initial start date by a user into said computer if said initial date is absent from

8   said memory of said printer.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of having the computer furnish said

initial date of said printer if a clock on said computer is accurate.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of storing said initial date of said

printer in said memory in said printer.